

ASCD in Action

FOCUS AREAS OF ASCD LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Education and Care of Young Children. After considering population, social, and learning trends, ASCD identified the education and care of young children as a major program emphasis in its strategic plan. The topic will be the theme of the November *Educational Leadership* and of a conference planned for April 1987. Information will be reported in *ASCD Update*.

Teaching Thinking. Teaching thinking is a major program emphasis in ASCD's new five-year plan. ASCD members may join a national network on teaching thinking by sending a check for \$10 made out to ASCD Network on Teaching Thinking to John Barell, Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043.

Some 27 education organizations convened by ASCD are collaborating on several projects, including development of a framework for curriculum and staff development. The product of that effort, *Dimensions of Thinking*, will be published as a comprehensive member book in the spring of 1987. Other goals of the Collaborative include working with publishers to improve textbooks and tests, encouraging needed research, and incorporating the teaching of thinking in teacher education. Information about each of these will be reported in *ASCD Update* and other publications as it becomes available. Project Facilitator: Ron Brandt, ASCD Executive Editor.

Leadership/Supervision Task Force. With its first meeting in September, this group begins a three-year evaluation of existing ASCD services in supervision and planning improvement activities. It will consider developing a plan to recognize proficiencies in the specialized areas of curriculum and supervision. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director.

Redefining the Teaching Profession. Through this group the association will consider current plans for differentiating teaching roles, career ladders, and restructuring teaching. It will determine implications for supervisors and the ASCD programs for improving teaching. Project Facilitator: Helené Hodges, Program Director.

CURRENT PROJECTS

ASCD Networks. ASCD is currently sponsoring nine networks. They include: Arts in Education, Clearinghouse on Learning Styles and Brain Behavior, Staff Development, Northwest Vermont Outcomes-Based Mastery, ASCD Educational Futurists, Thinking Skills, Teachers of Curriculum, Equity Issues and Women in Educational

Leadership, and Instructional Supervision. Any ASCD member may join. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, Director of Field Services.

Curriculum Trends Studies. ASCD has undertaken a series of longitudinal studies of elementary, middle, and secondary school curriculum trends that will be repeated in five-year cycles. The elementary study and the secondary study were reported in *Curriculum Update* in April 1985 and August 1986. For copies of the reports, available from the ASCD Fulfillment Department, send \$1 and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. A study of middle level schools is underway. Preliminary results will be available at the New Orleans Annual Conference.

International Education Study Group. The association now has affiliates in Europe and Canada, sponsors NCSI programs overseas and study tours of China and Russia each year, and has played an important role in founding the World Council on Curriculum and Instruction, which met last summer in Hiroshima. ASCD has also established a professional relationship with curriculum organizations in Britain and Canada, and will act on a similar plan with Australia. This group will meet once during the year to give direction to ASCD's expanding international role in education.

UPCOMING NATIONAL CURRICULUM STUDY INSTITUTES

See page 93 for NCSI schedule.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Policy Analysis. A new policy analysis panel has begun examining issues in bilingual education. Their report will be available early in 1987. Project Facilitator: Diane G. Berreth, Director of Field Services.

Dissertation Awards. Each year ASCD recognizes authors of outstanding dissertations in curriculum, supervision, and instruction. Eligible dissertations must have been completed during the academic year of 1 September 1985 to 31 August 1986. Submit abstracts by December 1986. For guidelines contact Susan Hartsoe, Project Facilitator.

CONSORTIUMS

Elementary Schools Thinking Skills Consortium. ASCD is accepting applications from elementary schools interested in joining a 25-school consortium that will develop and implement a plan for thinking skills in their curriculums. Each selected school will send a four-person team to

meetings held twice a year for two years. Applications are due October 24, 1986.

High School Futures Planning Consortium. Beginning in October, 25 middle-level schools from around the nation launch a two-year effort to enhance the strategic-planning capability of the middle school faculties, assisting them to design middle school education appropriate to the future lives of students. Each school will produce a long-range plan that focuses on: (1) organizing the school, (2) improving the core curriculum, (3) planning for sustained improvement of teaching, and (4) making better use of educational technology. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director.

High School Futures Consortium. In late fall 25 high schools will be selected to begin a two-year project to train school teams in strategic planning. Watch *Update* for application information. Project Facilitator: Gordon Cawelti, Executive Director.

1987 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the Forty-Second Annual ASCD Conference in New Orleans, 21-24 March 1987. Participants will consider the theme, Collaboration for Productive Learning: A Global Investment, under five related strands: Health and the Human Condition; The Changing Corporate Structure; Social Expectations—Language and Culture; Communications; Government and Global Influences on Educational Policy.

Featured General Session speakers include Robert Coles, professor and child psychiatrist, Harvard University; Neil Postman, professor of communications arts and sciences, New York University; Sarah Lawrence Lightfoot, professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education; and Terrence Deal, professor of educational leadership, Peabody School of Education, Vanderbilt University. Conference Manager: Sarah Arlington.

RECENT PRODUCTS

Books

Productive School Systems for a Nonrational World, by Jerry L. Patterson, Stewart C. Purkey, and Jackson V. Parker. Explains three strategies—managing the organizational culture, strategic planning, and empowerment—for producing integrated systems more responsive to change. (9611-86022) \$7.50.

Teachers Make a Difference, by Phil C. Robinson. A commemorative edition that relives ASCD's 1985 Year of the Teacher. (611-86042) \$6.00.

For project, product, or conference information, write or call ASCD, 125 North West St., Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 549-9110.

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